

**Rock County Telephone Company
Nebraska Universal Service Fund
Broadband Program
Grant Application
Newport, Nebraska**

REDACTED PUBLIC COPY

**Submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission
February 3, 2014**

Rock County Telephone Company
Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program
Newport, Nebraska Application

Application Checklist Item #1:

“A listing of all companies associated with the proposed broadband project that will provide the broadband or voice component of the service to consumers, including a main point of contact for all companies. (This requirement does not refer to vendors such as construction companies or equipment providers.)”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) is the incumbent local exchange carrier that will be responsible for managing the implementation of the project submitted through this application and will be providing the facilities for the proposed broadband project. RCTC will be providing the voice component of the service to the consumers in the proposed project area.

HunTel.net is the Internet service provider (“ISP”) that will be providing the broadband services over Rock County Telephone Company’s facilities.

The mailing addresses for these companies are:

Rock County Telephone Company
PO Box 400
1638 Lincoln Street
Blair, NE 68008

HunTel.net, Inc.
PO Box 400
1638 Lincoln Street
Blair, NE 68008

The main point of contact for this project is:

Joe Jetensky

President

Office Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: jjetensky@americanbb.com

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Application Checklist Item #2:

“A description of the proposed broadband project plan for which NUSF Broadband Program funding is being requested including download and upload speed capabilities which can be provided using the proposed infrastructure. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.”

Narrative:

In this application, Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) proposes to construct broadband infrastructure in the rural, underserved areas in and near Newport, Nebraska. RCTC has determined that the proposed project service area is underserved because it lacks access to broadband service at the 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speed capabilities that the Nebraska Public Service Commission has set as the speed threshold definition of broadband service.

The proposed project area near Newport, Nebraska is a vast, rural area with an extremely low population density, making the area an exceptionally high-cost area to serve. In the National Broadband Plan, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) found that the broadband availability gap is greatest in areas with low population density. In an effort to make broadband services more widely available in Nebraska and to close the broadband availability gap, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) established the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program (“NUSF Broadband Program”) to provide specific and targeted broadband support to unserved and underserved areas.



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[REDACTED]

The financial support provided by the NUSF Broadband Program [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Application Checklist Item #3:

“A description of which areas are “unserved” or “underserved” in accordance with the Commission’s definition.”

Narrative:

The proposed project service area is an underserved, rural area in RCTC’s Newport, Nebraska exchange. The proposed project service area [REDACTED] in the Newport exchange. There are [REDACTED] in the proposed project area. RCTC considers the proposed project area underserved because the households in this area do not have access to broadband service that provides 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload capability.

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Application Checklist Item #4:

“A list in Excel Format of all the census blocks where broadband facilities would be deployed for the proposed project which shall include 2010 Census Block identification numbers of service area, by project. The list of census blocks must be identified on a per project basis and must be contained in one spreadsheet. Carriers should not break apart the listing of census blocks in separate workbook tabs.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company has provided the census block list in an electronic, Excel Format and has also included a print out of the census block list in this application.

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Application Checklist Item #5:

“An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers.”

Narrative:

In order to determine an estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers, Rock County Telephone Company utilized the engineering plans for the proposed project area to determine how many households in the proposed project area would gain access to increased speed capabilities and broadband availability.

An estimate of the number of households which will have access to broadband service at the 4/1 Mbps speed level in the proposed project service area is included in the table below:

	Newport
Underserved	
Totals	

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Application Checklist Item #6:

“A schedule for broadband deployment with commitment to complete the build-out within 24 months of approval of the application. The schedule should describe milestones in project completion increments of 25 percent, and the estimated date by which the milestones will be completed.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company has estimated the major milestones and completion dates for the Newport project. However, because the actual construction schedule is contingent upon the application approval process and timeline, RCTC submits that the estimated completion dates are fluid, and while RCTC intends to have the Newport project completed in late 2014, construction on the project could flow into early 2015. In developing the project milestone schedule, RCTC has presumed that the approval notifications would be made in mid-2014.

Additional information regarding the project milestones or estimated completion dates will be provided to the Commission upon request.

PROJECT MILESTONES SCHEDULE

Milestone	Estimated Completion Date
Hardware Selection/Ordering	June 2014
Outside Plant Construction/Equipment Configuration & Installation	October 2014
System Turn-up/Testing	November 2014
Service Implementation	December 2014

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Application Checklist Item #7:

“A proposed budget, showing total project costs, in electronic format, with a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company has included a proposed budget, showing total project costs, including a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment. RCTC has provided the budget and depreciation schedule in an electronic, Excel Spreadsheet format and has included a print out of the budget and depreciation schedule in this application.

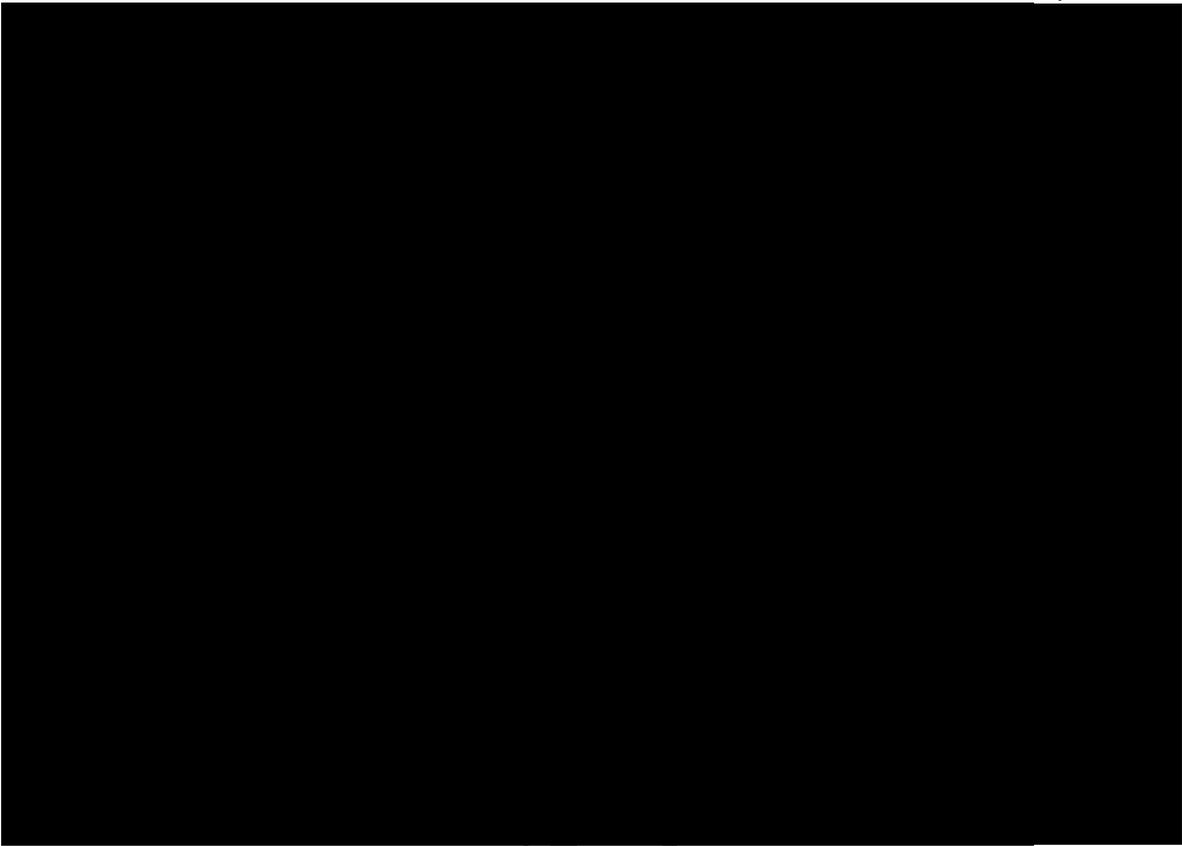
Summary totals from the proposed project budget, along with a summary of the depreciation schedule, are provided below:

Description	Gross Investment	Depreciable Life	Depreciation Per Year
Electronics			
Plant			
Total Capital Budget			
RCTC Matching Amount (25%)			

Rock County Telephone Company commits to using the NUSF Broadband Program support only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission through the application process.

[Redacted]

Qty



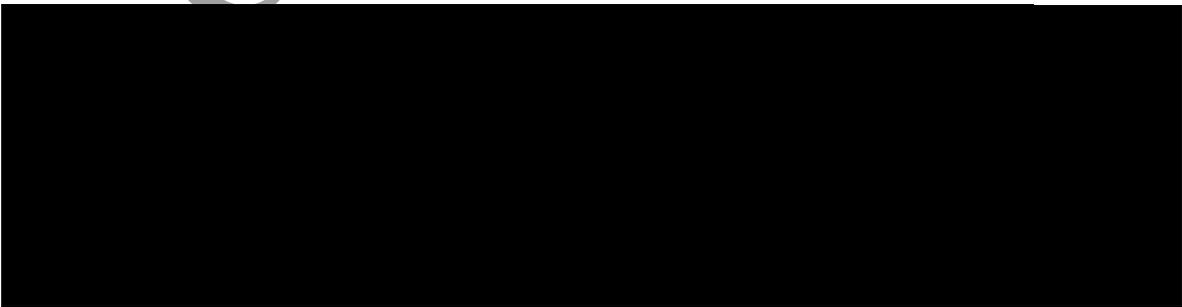
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Site#4



Site#5



Site#6



Site#7



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Site#8

[Redacted]

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Site#9

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Site#10

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Total List Price
Budgetary Price:

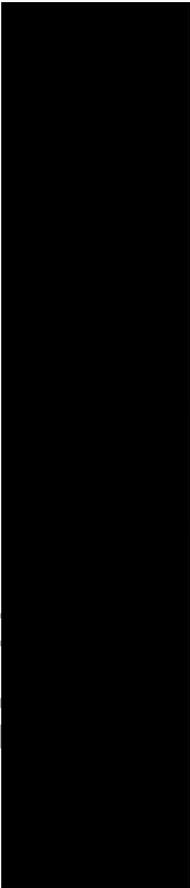
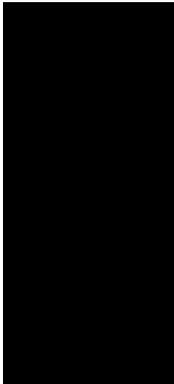
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**Rock County Telephone Company
Depreciation Schedule - Winnebago, NE**

Category

Yr Life

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- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
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- 18
- 19
- 20



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Application Checklist Item #8:

“Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered. Proposed rate, either monthly recurring (MRC) or non-recurring (NRC), for broadband related customer premise equipment (CPE, e.g. modem). If none listed, please state that applicant will not be charging a rate to the end user for broadband CPE.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to offering voice and broadband service at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, RCTC details the recurring pricing of the broadband services offered through this project, as well as any nonrecurring costs associated with the broadband service to be offered through the proposed project.

Recurring Monthly Prices		
Bundle Package	Residential Price	Business Price
Nonrecurring Prices		
Broadband Activation Charge		
Customer Modem (CPE) Purchase		
Customer Modem (CPE) Rental per month		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of broadband services		

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Application Checklist Item #9:

“Retail rate(s) charged for basic voice service. If a subscriber line charge is assessed, the amount of the SLC. If no SLC is assessed then a statement that no SLC is assessed.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company is committed to offering voice services at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, ENTC details the recurring and any non-recurring pricing of the voice services offered through this project. ENTC does assess a subscriber line charge and the amount of the SLC is included in the table.

Recurring Monthly Prices		
Voice Service	Residential Price	Business Price
Access line		
Subscriber line charge		
Subscriber line charge single line business		
Subscriber line charge multi line business		
Nonrecurring Prices		
Service order/installation		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of voice services		

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Application Checklist Item #10:

“A description of the applicant’s commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to providing the supported broadband service upon completion of the deployment to all households within the proposed project service area for a period of no less than five years.

The proposed project area is within Rock County Telephone Company’s incumbent local exchange service area, and as the Carrier of Last Resort, RCTC is committed to offering a voice grade service to all customers within the proposed project service area, including access to emergency services.

The funding requested in the application will [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Application Checklist Item #11:

“A description of the applicant’s commitment to provide broadband data to the Commission and its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program so that this broadband coverage area can be depicted on the Commission’s state broadband data inventory map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA’s) national broadband map.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company has been and will continue to be committed to providing its broadband data to the Nebraska Public Service Commission and to its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development Program.

As a successful applicant to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program, RCTC will continue to provide all required mapping data to the Commission and its vendors for its existing and new service areas so Rock County Telephone Company’s broadband service coverage areas will be depicted on the Nebraska Broadband Map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s National Broadband Map.

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Application Checklist Item #12:

“A description of the applicant’s financial qualifications, which may be filed on a confidential basis, to meet the commitments made in the application.”

Narrative:

The Commission has indicated that for companies filing Annual Report Form M, the information contained in Form M would be sufficient to meet the application requirement.

Rock County Telephone Company’s Annual Report Form M illustrates the company’s financial position and is on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

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Application Checklist Item #13:

“If the applicant does not have a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in Nebraska, a demonstration of the applicant’s financial, technical, and managerial competence.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company is an established rural, incumbent local exchange carrier operating in Nebraska and holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in the State of Nebraska.

RCTC commits to abide by all applicable Commission rules, regulations and orders.

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Rock County Telephone Company
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Application Checklist Item #14:

“A description of the applicant’s financial match which will be used to meet the commitments made in the application. Applicant shall submit a proposed budget for the entire project cost.”

Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company’s proposed budget for the entire project costs has been included with the application.

Rock County Telephone Company [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RCTC commits to provide project invoices as required based upon the completion milestones identified in NUSF 77 P.O. No. 5. RCTC further commits to fulfilling all reporting and audit requirements adopted by the Commission for oversight of the NUSF Broadband Program.

A summary of the total project cost and match amount is included below:

Total Capital Budget	Rock County Telephone Company 25% Match	NPSC 75% Grant Request
[REDACTED]		

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Application Checklist Item #15:

“An affidavit from the Applicant attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in the application.”

Narrative:

Included with this application is an Affidavit of Joe Jetensky, President of Rock County Telephone Company attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in this application.

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**BEFORE THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Rock County Telephone Company)	Application No. _____
Seeking Support Funding from the)	
Nebraska Universal Service Fund)	
Broadband Program)	
)	

**AFFIDAVIT OF JOE JETENSKY
IN SUPPORT OF
ROCK COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY'S
NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND BROADBAND PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

I, Joe Jetensky, being of lawful age and duly sworn, state as follows:

1. My name is Joe Jetensky. My business address is 1605 Washington Street, Blair, NE 68008. My title is President of Rock County Telephone Company and I have worked for the company in this capacity since 2013. I am responsible for overseeing the daily operations of Rock County Telephone Company, regulatory affairs, project development, network deployment decisions and general management duties of the company.
2. I submit this affidavit in support in the Matter of the Application of Rock County Telephone Company Seeking Support Funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program.
3. I hereby verify that, as the President of Rock County Telephone Company, I have reviewed the information and documentation submitted in support of Rock County Telephone Company's Grant Application for funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program and filed with the Nebraska Public Service Commission on February 3, 2014 and attest to the truth and accuracy to the best of my

knowledge and belief of all of the information included in Rock County Telephone Company's application.

4. This completes my affidavit.

VERIFICATION

I, Joe Jetensky, declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Joe Jetensky
President
Rock County Telephone Company

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this
29th day of January, 2014.

Merri B. Dibben

Merri B. Dibben (Printed Name)

Notary Public, Washington County, Nebraska

Acting in the County of Washington

My Commission Expires: April 6, 2016

